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Reagan's Choice for U.N. Post Says He'll Accept

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WASHINGTON, March 26 — Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, recently nominated as the American delegate to the United Nations, told the White House today that he would accept the post even though it did not include a regular seat on the National Security Council.

The announcement by the White House ended speculation that General Walters might not take the high-level position because of opposition by Secretary of State George P. Shultz to making him a regular member of the council. The nomination was sent to the Senate on Monday, the White House said.

The 68-year-old retired general, a longtime diplomatic trouble-shooter and former Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, was nominated Feb. 8 to replace Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, who is to leave the post at the end of the week. At that time, he indicated that the job would be of Cabinet rank and that he would serve on the National Security Council.

But Administration officials had said in recent days that Secretary Shultz,

who met with the general on Monday, had opposed seating him on the council and that the Secretary had been supported by Mr. Reagan.

The White House spokesman, Larry Speakes, suggested today that confusion had developed over whether the United Nations position carried with it a formal position on the security council, a key arm of the Administration in determining foreign policy. He said that previous American delegates, including Dr. Kirkpatrick, had not actually served on the council but had attended meetings at the invitation of Mr. Reagan, which General Walters would also do.

Mr. Speakes said that "it remains to be seen" if General Walters would be invited to attend meetings as frequently as Dr. Kirkpatrick. But he said that Mr. Reagan had the "highest regard" for the general and valued his counsel.

At the United Nations, Dr. Kirkpatrick told reporters that during her four years as chief delegate she had found it of value to have been "a member of the National Security Council," and a spokesman, responding to Mr. Speakes's statement that she had not held a regular seat, said Dr. Kirkpatrick "was a member" of the council.

Mr. Speakes said that General Walters had informed Robert C. McFarlane, Mr. Reagan's national security adviser, that he would take the job and that Mr. McFarlane had conveyed his intention to the President.

Seeking to dispel an impression that General Walters would have less of a voice in foreign policy matters than Dr. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Speakes said that she had not been invited to attend all council meetings and that she would at times miss meetings she was asked to attend.

"Very often she would be expected here and ended up being in New York, because something came up," he said.

A spokesman for General Walters had said before Mr. Speakes's remarks that the general would have no comment on his status.

The National Security Council was created in 1947 to advise the President on national security matters. Its statutory members are the President, the Vice President, the Secretaries of State and Defense, the Director of the Central Intelligence and the chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs.

Mr. Reagan has also designated the white house chief of staff, Donald T. Regan, and Treasury Secretary James A. Baker 3d to attend the meetings.